

We Claim:

- 1 1. A method in a computing system for managing inventory, the method
2 comprising:
3 extracting inventory transaction information in a first form that is associated
4 with a first source computerized inventory management system;
5 converting the inventory transaction information in the first form into inventory
6 transaction information that is in a second intermediate form; and
7 converting the inventory transaction information in the second intermediate
8 form into inventory transaction information in a target form that
9 corresponds to a target computerized inventory management system.
- 1 2. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 using the inventory transaction information in the target form to perform at
3 least one computer-implemented act from a set of computer-
4 implemented acts comprising:
5 creating a new inventory transaction record in the target computerized
6 inventory management system; and
7 updating an existing inventory transaction record in the target
8 computerized inventory management system.
- 1 3. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
2 extracting inventory transaction information in a third form that is associated
3 with a second source computerized inventory management system
4 that is distinct from the first source computerized inventory
5 management system;

6 converting the inventory transaction information in the third form into inventory
7 transaction information that is in the second intermediate form;
8 converting the inventory transaction information in the second intermediate
9 form into inventory transaction information in the target form; and
10 using the inventory transaction information in the target form to perform at
11 least one computer-implemented act from a set of computer-
12 implemented acts comprising:
13 creating a new inventory transaction record in the target computerized
14 inventory management system; and
15 updating an existing inventory transaction record in the target
16 computerized inventory management system.

1 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the second intermediate form includes a list
2 of inventory transactions class with a hierarchy of data elements, wherein the
3 hierarchy of data elements includes a plurality of inventory transaction
4 elements which include other elements.

1 5. The method of Claim 4, wherein each of the plurality of inventory transaction
2 elements includes:

3 an inventory transaction identifier;

4 a base data element for defining:

5 a transaction comments element;

6 a transaction date;

7 a transaction quantity of items;

8 a transaction time;

9 a transaction type code; and

10 a transaction unit of measure code;

11 a list of identifier data element for defining identifier data that is specific to a
12 product or item.;
13 a location data element for defining a destination location data element and a
14 source location data element;
15 a related product element for defining a product or item identifier;
16 a related document data element for defining a related purchase order
17 element; and
18 a custom data element for defining customized attributes for the inventory
19 transaction information.

1 6. The method of Claim 5, wherein:

2 the identifier data element includes a product serial number or an item serial
3 number;
4 the destination location data element includes a destination bucket code
5 element and a destination inventory location identifier element;
6 the source location data element includes a source bucket code element and
7 a source inventory location identifier; and
8 the related purchase order element includes a purchase order element for
9 defining purchase-order-type elements that include:
10 a common object row identifier element;
11 a purchase order base data element wherein the purchase order base
12 data element includes a purchase order number;
13 a list of purchase order line item element, wherein the list of purchase
14 order line item element includes a plurality of purchase order
15 line items; and
16 a purchase order custom data element.

1 7. The method of Claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of purchase order line
2 items includes:

3 a purchase order line item number identifier element;

4 a purchase order line item base data element; and

5 a purchase order line item custom data element.

1 8. The method of Claim 7, wherein the purchase order line item base data
2 element includes a purchase order line item number.

1 9. A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of instructions
2 for managing inventory, wherein execution of the one or more sequences of
3 instructions by one or more processors causes the one or more processors to
4 perform:

5 extracting inventory transaction information in a first form that is associated

6 with a first source computerized inventory management system;

7 converting the inventory transaction information in the first form into inventory

8 transaction information that is in a second intermediate form; and

9 converting the inventory transaction information in the second intermediate

10 form into inventory transaction information in a target form that

11 corresponds to a target computerized inventory management system.

1 10. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, further comprising:

2 using the inventory transaction information in the target form to perform at

3 least one computer-implemented act from a set of computer-

4 implemented acts comprising:

5 creating a new inventory transaction record in the target computerized

6 inventory management system; and

7 updating an existing inventory transaction record in the target
8 computerized inventory management system.

1 11. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, further comprising:
2 extracting inventory transaction information in a third form that is associated
3 with a second source computerized inventory management system
4 that is distinct from the first source computerized inventory
5 management system;
6 converting the inventory transaction information in the third form into inventory
7 transaction information that is in the second intermediate form;
8 converting the inventory transaction information in the second intermediate
9 form into inventory transaction information in the target form; and
10 using the inventory transaction information in the target form to perform at
11 least one computer-implemented act from a set of computer-
12 implemented acts comprising:
13 creating a new inventory transaction record in the target computerized
14 inventory management system; and
15 updating an existing inventory transaction record in the target
16 computerized inventory management system.

1 12. The computer-readable medium of Claim 9, wherein the second intermediate
2 form includes a list of inventory transactions class with a hierarchy of data
3 elements.

1 13. The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the hierarchy of data
2 elements includes a plurality of inventory transaction elements which include
3 other elements.

- 1 14. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory transaction elements includes an inventory transaction identifier.
- 1 15. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory transaction elements includes a base data element for defining:
3 a transaction comments element;
4 a transaction date;
5 a transaction quantity of items;
6 a transaction time;
7 a transaction type code; and
8 a transaction unit of measure code.
- 1 16. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory transaction elements includes a list of identifier data element for
3 defining identifier data that is specific to a product or item.
- 1 17. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory transaction elements includes a location data element for defining a
3 destination location data element and a source location data element.
- 1 18. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory transaction elements includes a related product element for defining
3 a product or item identifier.
- 1 19. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory transaction elements includes a related document data element for
3 defining a related purchase order element.

- 1 20. The computer-readable medium of Claim 13, wherein each of the plurality of
2 inventory transaction elements includes a custom data element for defining
3 customized attributes for the inventory transaction information.
- 1 21. The computer-readable medium of Claim 16, wherein the identifier data
2 element includes a product serial number or an item serial number.
- 1 22. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein the destination location
2 data element includes a destination bucket code element, which in turn
3 includes a destination inventory location identifier.
- 1 23. The computer-readable medium of Claim 17, wherein the source location
2 data element includes a source bucket code element, which in turn includes a
3 source inventory location identifier.
- 1 24. The computer-readable medium of Claim 19, wherein the related purchase
2 order element includes a purchase order element for defining purchase order
3 elements that include:
4 a common object row identifier element;
5 a purchase order base data type element;
6 a list of purchase order line item element; and
7 a purchase order custom data element.
- 1 25. The computer-readable medium of Claim 24, wherein the purchase order
2 base data type element includes a purchase order number.
- 1 26. The computer-readable medium of Claim 24, wherein the list of purchase
2 order line item element includes a plurality of purchase order line items.

1 27. The computer-readable medium of Claim 26, wherein each of the plurality of
2 purchase order line items includes:

3 a purchase order line item number identifier element;

4 a purchase order line item base data element; and

5 a purchase order line item custom data element.

1 28. The computer-readable medium of Claim 27, wherein the purchase order line
2 item base data element includes a purchase order line item number.

3 29. A data structure for managing inventory, the data structure comprising a list of
4 inventory transactions class with a hierarchy of data elements, wherein the
5 hierarchy of data elements includes a plurality of inventory transaction
6 elements which include other elements.

1 30. The data structure of Claim 29, wherein each of the plurality of inventory
2 transaction elements includes:

3 an inventory transaction identifier;

4 a base data element for defining:

5 a transaction comments element;

6 a transaction date;

7 a transaction quantity of items;

8 a transaction time;

9 a transaction type code; and

10 a transaction unit of measure code;

11 a list of identifier data element for defining identifier data that is specific to a
12 product or item.;

13 a location data element for defining a destination location data element and a
14 source location data element;
15 a related product element for defining a product or item identifier;
16 a related document data element for defining a related purchase order
17 element; and
18 a custom data element for defining customized attributes for the inventory
19 transaction information.

1 31. The data structure of Claim 30, wherein:
2 the identifier data element includes a product serial number or an item serial
3 number;
4 the destination location data element includes a destination bucket code
5 element and a destination inventory location identifier element;
6 the source location data element includes a source bucket code element and
7 a source inventory location identifier; and
8 the related purchase order element includes a purchase order element for
9 defining purchase-order-type elements that include:
10 a common object row identifier element;
11 a purchase order base data element wherein the purchase order base
12 data element includes a purchase order number;
13 a list of purchase order line item element, wherein the list of purchase
14 order line item element includes a plurality of purchase order
15 line items; and
16 a purchase order custom data element.

1 32. The data structure of Claim 31, wherein each of the plurality of purchase
2 order line items includes:

3 a purchase order line item number identifier element;
4 a purchase order line item base data element; and
5 a purchase order line item custom data element.

1 33. The data structure of Claim 32, wherein the purchase order line item base
2 data element includes a purchase order line item number.

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